

# The Daily Green Mountain Freeman.

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## Miscellany.

### A Soldier's Letter—No. 45.

SECOND VERMONT REGIMENT,  
November 29, 1863.

EDITOR FREEMAN:—This quiet Sabbath morning while the good people of Vermont are attending their accustomed places of worship, we, here in the army, are engaged in a manner widely different. Our regiment is on picket duty, close up to the enemy, and picket firing is going on nearly all the time. I have seated myself by our little fire on the support, and as it will be several hours before my turn will come to go on post, perhaps I shall have a better time to acquaint you with our proceedings for the last week or so, than the present.

We are in what I am told is called here, the Owl's Wilderness, and certainly it would be hard to conceive of a name more appropriate. It appears to be one unbroken wilderness, extending fifteen or twenty miles either way, without any other inhabitants than owls, buzzards, and such like animals. There may be, once in a while, a small clearing with a log house in the center, and a high fence all around it, and with some signs of the land having been cultivated in modern times, but these places have strayed away so far from all civilization that it will be hardly worth while to take them into account. The land where we are now, is covered with small second-growth pine, and looks as if it had been under cultivation once, but probably worn out and abandoned for more fertile regions. Part of the woods that we have been through is grown up to oak and other solid timber of all sizes, and has probably been forest from time immemorial. The land is level, and has the appearance of being good soil, and if I am any judge I should call it just such land as would tempt the eyes of almost any practical farmer, if it was up in our Northern States, instead of being here in desecrated Virginia.

As to the latitude and longitude of our present whereabouts, the man in the moon could tell as well as we. We have marched principally in the night, and in all directions, so it has destroyed all our calculations as to distance and directions, and all we can say about the matter is that we have crossed the Rapidan and are still on the rebel's side of the river. It is cheering to be able, under such circumstances, to put confidence in others, for we should be in a woful plight if we were obliged to act upon our geographical knowledge at the present time. The sun rises in the southwest, and I noticed that the needle of the compass points almost exactly the wrong way. If anybody was going to desert just now, I should be a poor guide to direct their flight.

One week ago to day we had divine services in our regiment, held by Mr. Chandler, from Brattleboro. As we have no Chaplain of our own, and consequently very meagre religious privileges of any kind, it was quite a rarity to hear any one preach. He is connected with the Christian Commission, and in anticipation of a battle, had come out here to act the part of the Good Samaritan to the suffering,—as a great many belonging to that Commission have done, to the everlasting gratitude of those who have been wounded in action,—and to preach the gospel and distribute religious reading where such services are needed. He had a large bundle of papers with him that were eagerly received.

On the morning of the 24th, we had orders to be ready to march at an early hour. Accordingly, at precisely three o'clock in the morning, our quiet dreams were broken up by the rattling of drums all through camp, and forthwith we commenced to break up housekeeping—for the most of us had built up tip-top houses—and to prepare for another campaign or for whatever was to be accomplished. The weather was grim and forbidding, and the rain drops as they came pattering on our tent that morning, driven by a regular nor'easter, had a very dismal sound in view of the prospect before us. A rainstorm is a very uninviting auxiliary with which to commence a long campaign at any season of the year, but more especially now when cold weather has come and when wet clothes can hardly be made to suggest anything but discomforts of the least desirable kind. Our tents had become wet and heavy, and to carry these in our knapsacks with all the rest of the clothing that we are obliged to carry at this time of the year, was going to make a pretty heavy draft upon the strength of a fellow's back bone. It is the last straw that breaks the camel's back, and the addition of a few extra pounds of water might have the same effect on us, for our packs have hitherto been as heavy as seemed possible for us to carry. You may judge of our satisfaction then, when we heard that the order to march had been postponed for two days. Some think that other reasons besides unpropitious weather, was the cause of the delay; if not, was rather of an anomaly in our war experience

but none the less acceptable for all that. We shall certainly think we have one good reason for respecting Gen. Meade.

Although we had been expecting to move somewhere for a long time, we had but little idea where we were going. There been all sorts of rumors in camp, as there always are at such times, and almost every man had a rumor of his own. No honest man could believe two of them at the same time. Sometimes it was reported that we were going to New York. Gen. Stannard had command there and wanted us to do service under him. I heard that some officers had offered to bet very extravagantly that such would be the case. It is curious how such rumors will thrive and strengthen themselves in a thousand different ways. It was coolly told in the third brigade, and believed there, that orders had been read to us on dress parade to draw clothing suitable for garrison duty, when no such orders had been read to us at all, and more than all that, our regiment had no dress parade while we stayed in our last camp. Another story was that the army was going to move down to the vicinity of Aquia Creek and go into winter quarters there again. Going across the Rapidan to attack the enemy once more, seemed to be hardly feasible at this late season. Moreover, attacking Lee in his old chosen position, we have tried so many times and failed, that a great many think it is high time that that method of maneuvering was played out.

The day, before we did move, I was up in one of the New York regiments, and they were trying to enlist the men over again for another three years. They were managing this matter with a great deal of shrewdness. Every man that put his name down was to have a furlough and go home immediately. As it had become pretty certain that we were to have a long, tedious campaign, cold and stormy it might be in pursuit of the enemy, it was quite a tempting bait for a fellow to write down his name and get rid of it all, and go home and have a jolly time instead. In some of the New York regiments, the enlisting officers have been pretty successful; in others, the boys say they want to breathe free air once more before they enlist again.

Thursday morning, the 26th, we were drummed up again, and early, to prepare to march. The air was clear, and there were no signs of rain nor any probability that the movement would be postponed again. Our knapsacks were packed, tents struck, huge bonfires were burning all through the camp, consuming material that had cost us a great deal of pains to collect. The sun was just beginning to melt away the frost, when we fell into line and filed off towards Brandy Station Camp without number were being deserted, some of which had been fixed up as comfortable as would be needed for winter quarters. The whole army was in motion. Infantry, artillery, and baggage wagons ad infinitum, had suddenly waked to life and were crowding along, or halting in a field for it to come their turn to start. It was nearly noon before we got hardly so far as Brandy Station. The marching all day was very slow. Sometimes we would hardly get a half mile from one halting place before we would halt again. As it grew towards night, and we believed that we had got to cross the river before we halted for the night, we began to grow impatient of these vexatious delays, and anxious to get to our journey's end. Before we reached the river we had got a couple of miles of woods to go through, and there was only one little road hardly wide enough for a file of four men to walk abreast, while on each side was a dense thicket of all sorts of timber that nature ever invented. If we could have marched right straight along in this road it would have been all well enough, but, instead of that, we could only march a few steps at a time, then wait for those ahead of us to clear the way. We would march about a rod, then wait five minutes, when we could march a rod more, and then wait another five minutes, and all this while the weight of our knapsacks was increasing, and our patience steadily diminishing, until the boys began to curse patriots and traitors, without much discrimination. Finally, we halted and sat down. An hour passed, and still we didn't move. Some of the boys ventured to make coffee, running the risk of being ordered to fall in just as they were divested of their load, and enjoying their warm drink. By and by orders came that we might make us coffee, and eat our supper, and we all pitched into the business with a will. We had ample time to allowed us to finish our meal, and when we were at last ordered to fall in, the road was clear and we could march along as fast as we liked.

We crossed the Rapidan between Germania and Raceon Ford, at Jacob's Ferry on a pontoon bridge. The opposite bluff was almost perpendicular, and as soon as we had climbed to the top we halted and camped for the night, or for

what there was left of it, for it was past midnight when we stopped. Before sunrise we were ordered up, and soon on the march again. There was skirmishing ahead of us and our advance was slow. We gained but three or four miles from the river all day. Towards night firing began to be more rapid and we were ordered forward into line. The third corps were ahead of us. Our line extended into the woods to the extreme right. About quarter before four the firing commenced with terrible earnestness. To us it looked as though there would be a chance for us to have a hand in it. We could not see the fight, for the wood was so dense that we could see but a few rods ahead of us, but from the sound of the firing, and from the number of frightened skeddaddlers that were making swift tracks to the rear, we had reason to fear that the battle was going against us. The firing continued till long into the night. Evidently the rebels could not break our lines as they would have been on us. It was difficult to get any exact information of the result of the battle, but the 'sum and substance' of what we could get was, that we had been linked and forced to fall back; that the rebels had charged upon our line and been repulsed; that we in turn charged them, drove them back and gained some ground at the close of the struggle. The Fourth Vermont was in the fight, and there was a report that night that they broke and ran; other reports contradicted it. I have heard that they bore the test and held their ground like men, although a line ahead of them broke and skeddaddled right through their ranks; and for a Vermont regiment, this is decidedly the most rational story to believe.

After a while the firing ceased and everything was quiet as the grave. We commenced to build fires to warm ourselves and to make coffee by, but an order came to allow no fires on the line. Afterward they concluded to let us have a few small fires, and we eat our suppers and laid down. About midnight we were ordered to pick up and fall in. Our line of march was towards the left. By the number of troops that were in motion, I should judge that all hands left that place during the night. It would be impossible to guess how far we marched before daylight, when we maneuvered around and got into a position here. We didn't march very rapidly, nor very straight, but if I was to make a rough guess at the matter, I should say that we came about a half a dozen miles from where the fight was Friday night, and that now we must be pretty well down towards Chancellorsville. Next time I write, I hope I shall be better informed and be able to write a more intelligent letter.

ANTI REBEL.

(COMMUNICATED.)

## Pulmonary Consumption A Curable Disease, A CARD.

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To all who desire it, he will send a copy of the prescription used (free of charge), with the directions for preparing and using the same, which will find a cure for Pulmonary Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, Coughs, &c. The only object of the advertiser in sending the Prescription is to benefit the afflicted, and spread information which he conceives to be invaluable; and he hopes ever to see his remedy, as it will cost them nothing and may prove a blessing.

Parties wishing the prescription will please address  
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The most certain and speedy remedy ever discovered for all Diseases of the Chest and Lungs, Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Consumption, Bronchitis, Indurated Hoarseness, Difficult Breathing, Sore Throat, &c. &c.

THESE WAFERS give the most instantaneous and perfect relief when persevered with according to directions, never fail to effect a rapid and lasting cure. Thousands have been restored to perfect health who have tried other means in vain. To all classes and all conditions they are equally a blessing and a cure—none need despair, no matter how long the disease may have existed, or how severe it may be, provided the organic structure of the vital organs is not hopelessly decayed. Every one afflicted should give them an impartial trial. To Vocalists and Public Speakers, these Wafers are peculiarly valuable; they will in one day remove the most severe occasional hoarseness and their regular use for a few days will, at all times increase the power and flexibility of the voice, greatly improving its tone, compass and clearness, for which purpose they are regularly used by many professional vocalists. None need despair. JOB MOSKES, Sole Proprietor, 27 Cortlandt Street, N. Y. Price 50cts per box. For sale by all Druggists.

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## Notice.

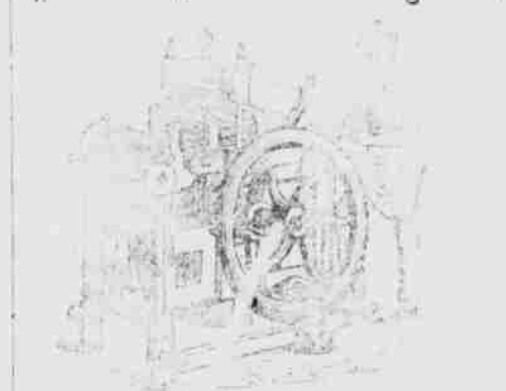
CAME into the enclosure of the subscriber on or about the 10th of October last, a light bay mare Colt spanned to be two or three years old. The owner is requested to prove property, pay charges, and take her away. Wm. H. STONE, Waverly.

## Daniel Collins Estate.

THE Subscribers, having been appointed by the Honorable Probate Court for the District of Washington, Commissioners, to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands of all persons against the estate of Daniel Collins late of Canal, in said district, deceased, represented in solvent, and the term of six months from the 18th day of November, 1863, being allowed by said court to the creditors said deceased, to exhibit and prove their respective claims before us: Give notice, that we will attend to the duties of our appointment at the dwelling house of the late Daniel Collins, in Capitol, in said district on the 19th day of December next, at ten o'clock in the afternoon, on each of said days.

JOSEPH LANCE, [Comm'r]  
CALEB FISHER, [Comm'r]  
Ctob, November, 23d, A. D. 1863. Jfw3

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May 12, 1863

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at Montpelier, or L. H. Brigham at Waitsfield.

G. N. BRIGHAM,  
L. H. BRIGHAM.

Montpelier, Dec. 7, 1863.

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CHAS. A. ROBINSON.  
Montpelier, Sept. 25

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" Northfield, " 10th and 11th.

" St. Albans, " 12th and 13th.

" Uxbridge, " 14th and 15th.

" So. Hard, " 16th and 17th.

The Institutes will each continue in session during two days, commencing at 9 A. M.

All friends of Education are invited to attend. Town superintendents are desired to see that Teachers are notified, and urge them to attend.

Clergymen are respectfully invited to give notice from their pulpits.

J. S. ADAMS, Secretary.